Revenue Loss Due to Shifting of Serials from DD-2 to DD-1

*40. SHRI CHIMNBHAI HARIBHAI SHUKLA:
SHRI KANAKSINH MOHANSINH MANGROLA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total revenue earned by Doordarshan from the serials shifting from 8.30 P.M. slots of DD-2 to 10.30 P.M. slots of DD-1 channel during the last two months as compared to revenue earned by Doordarshan in the months of March and April, 1995;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is an anticipated revenue loss of several crores to the Doordarshan in the near future; and

(c) if so, what steps /measures are being taken to put back these popular serials on some prime time slots?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) The details are as follows:—

May-June, 1995—Rs. 370.93 lakhs

March-April, 1995—Rs. 551.66 lakhs

(b) and (c) It is too early to predict the financial impact of the redesigned programme format which came into effect from 2nd June, 1995.

Removal of Excise Duty on Newsprint

139. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether representatives of Newspaper industry have asked the Government to take up with State Governments for removal of State excise duty on newsprint;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) to (c) No State excise duty is charged on newsprint produced in the country.

Complaints of Indian Television Companies

140. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:
SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:
SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Doordarshan CNN tie-up has invited complaints from Indian television companies;

(b) whether such tie-up may ultimately destroy Indian values and culture;

(c) whether opening up of skies to foreign companies goes against the verdict of the Supreme Court; and

(d) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto and reasons for not seeking approval of Parliament on such an important matter and whether it is proposed to review the agreement and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO): (a) Government's attention has been drawn to newspaper reports to this effect

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.